

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising:

(A) an image sensing unit that senses an object image; and

5 (B) an exposure controller that performs exposure control for photographing by selectively using a first exposure control mode in which an exposure value for photographing is determined while exposure control is performed in accordance with the brightness of object
10 images repetitively sensed by said image sensing unit, and a second exposure control mode in which an exposure value for photographing is determined by performing exposure control by using a plurality of preset exposure values.

15 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein on the basis of an exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode, said exposure controller determines whether to perform the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value
20 determined in the first exposure control mode or by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein on the basis of whether an exposure correction value
25 obtained in the first exposure control mode is smaller than a predetermined value, said exposure controller determines whether to perform the exposure control for

photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode or by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.

- 5 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein if the exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is smaller than the predetermined value, said exposure controller performs the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value
10 determined in the first exposure control mode, and, if the exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is larger than the predetermined value, said exposure controller performs the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value
15 determined in the second exposure control mode.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein on the basis of whether an absolute value of an exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is smaller than a predetermined value, said
20 exposure controller determines whether to perform the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode or by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.

- 25 6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein if the absolute value of the exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is smaller

- than the predetermined value, said exposure controller performs the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode, and, if the absolute value of the exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is larger than the predetermined value, said exposure controller performs the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in response to an operation of an shutter release operating member, said exposure controller determines whether to perform the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode or by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.
8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises an image sensing apparatus.
9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a digital camera capable of sensing at least one of a still image and a moving image.
10. An exposure control method comprising:
- (A) the image sensing step of sensing an object image; and
- (B) the exposure control step of performing the exposure control for photographing by selectively using

a first exposure control mode in which an exposure value for photographing is determined while exposure control is performed in accordance with the brightness of object images repetitively sensed in the image

5 sensing step, and a second exposure control mode in which an exposure value for photographing is determined by performing exposure control by using a plurality of preset exposure values.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein on the
10 basis of an exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode, the exposure control step comprises determining whether to perform the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode or by
15 using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein on the basis of whether an exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is smaller than a
20 predetermined value, the exposure control step comprises determining whether to perform the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode or by using the exposure value determined in the second
25 exposure control mode.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein if the exposure correction value obtained in the first

exposure control mode is smaller than the predetermined value, the exposure control step comprises performing the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode, and, if the exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is larger than the predetermined value, the exposure control step comprises performing the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein on the basis of whether an absolute value of an exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is smaller than a predetermined value, the exposure control step comprises determining whether to perform the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode or by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein if the absolute value of the exposure correction value obtained in the first exposure control mode is smaller than the predetermined value, the exposure control step comprises performing the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode, and, if the absolute value of the exposure correction value obtained in the

first exposure control mode is larger than the predetermined value, the exposure control step comprises performing the exposure control for photographing by using the exposure value determined in
5 the second exposure control mode.

16. The method according to claim 10, wherein in response to an operation of an shutter release operating member, the exposure control step comprises determining whether to perform the exposure control for
10 photographing by using the exposure value determined in the first exposure control mode or by using the exposure value determined in the second exposure control mode.

17. A program for causing a computer to execute the
15 exposure control method according to claim 10.

18. A storage medium storing the program according to claim 17 in a computer-readable form.